

## Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 SAB-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /083 W

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R 161616Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1862

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EO 11652: NA DECON 12/16/75

TAGS: PFOR US LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT RE US-LEBANESE RELATIONS

REF: BEIRUT 14949

1. AS FORESEEN REFTEL, LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED FOLLOWING STATEMENT DEC 14 WHICH WAS CARRIED BY L'ORIENT-LE JOUR DEC 15:

BEGIN TEXT: "IN ITS ISSUED OF SATURDAY DEC 14, 1974, ON PAGE 12, COLUMN 4, UNDER THE HEADLINE 'NO SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING', L'ORIENT-LE JOUR ATTRIBUTED TO MR TAQLA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: 'IN THE SAME CONNECTION (I.E., POSSIBLE UNSC MEETING), MR TAQLA HAS CONCLUDED THAT CONVOKING THE AMBS OF THE FIVE GREAT POWERS WOULD NOT REALLY BE USEFUL 'BECAUSE OF THE COOLNESS EXISTING IN LEBANESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS'... THE UNITED STATES BEING THE SOLE COUNTRY CAPABLE OF EXERTING PRESSURE ON ISRAEL...'".

"THE MINISTER CATEGORICALLY DENIES THIS INFORMATION, SINCE HE MADE NO STATEMENT OF THIS NATURE.

"MOREOVER, RELATIONS BETWEEN BEIRUT AND WASHINGTON

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ARE CONSTANTLY IMPROVING. THE NEW YORK INCIDENT IS

CONSIDERED CLOSED ON THE LEVEL OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS FOLLOWING THE RECEIPT OF INFORMATION FURNISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, MR GODLEY, WHO VIEWS HIS MISSION TO WASHINGTON AS HAVING LED TO A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND LEBANON, WILL SOON RETURN TO HIS POST IN BEIRUT.

"ADDITIONALLY, IN THE SPIRIT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY REASON FOR CONSIDERING THAT THE NEW YORK

INCIDENT COULD DISTURB LEBANON'S GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. ON THE LEVEL OF CONTACTS BETWEEN THE HOTEL BUSTROS AND THE US EMBASSY, NOTHING HAS CHANGED, DESPITE THE AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE." END TEXT.

2. COMMENT: I HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY RELIABLE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE FONOFF SOURCE THAT THE ABOVE STATEMENT WAS ISSUED WITH THE CONSENT AND APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.  
HOUGHTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ALLEGATIONS, AMBASSADORS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BEIRUT15000  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 74 BEIRUT 14949  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <24 MAR 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT RE US-LEBANESE RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, US, LE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005